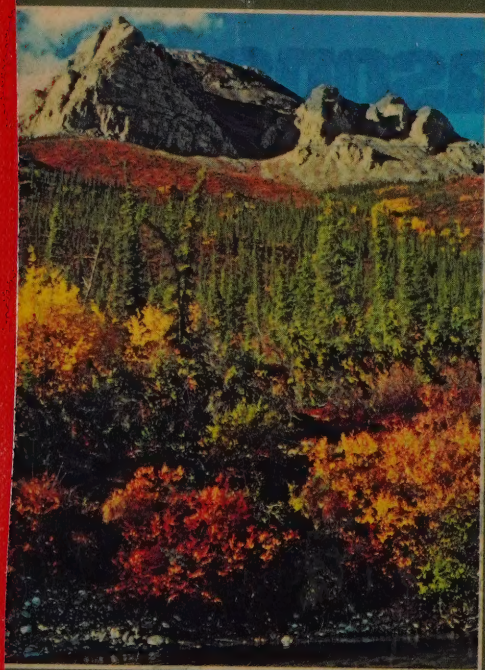


Introduction to Alaska 1981



A Land for All Seasons



80 Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Box 4 EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509

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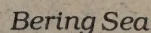
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A Land for All Seasons

Worked upon by the forces of light and darkness, heat and cold, this sprawling land, four time zones wide and bigger than 21 of the other 49 states combined, undergoes dramatic changes. Moving in harmony with these, Alaskans match their varied activities to the time and the terrain.

Summer: Mount McKinley National Park, located about midway between Anchorage and Fairbanks off the George Parks Highway, is a popular outdoor recreation area for state residents and visitors alike. (Gary Dobos)





Alaska population 400,000

Town or Village	Population*
Anchorage	184,775
Barrow	2,715
Bethel	3,608
Cordova	2,780
Dillingham	1,360
Fairbanks	30,462
Gambell	447
Haines	1,366
Juneau	22,105
Kaktovik	192
Ketchikan	8,293
Kivalina	227
Kodiak	5,754
Kotzebue	2,526
Nenana	503
Nome	2,892
Nuiqsut	182
Palmer	2,141
Point Hope	464
Savoonga	409
Seward	2,130
Sitka	8,787
Tanana	499
Wainwright	429
Wales	130
Willow	576**

* Population figures are difficult to determine for some areas of Alaska. Figures given here are latest available from State of Alaska, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, except as noted.

** Area population according to *The MILEPOST*, 1980 edition.

Winter

Refusing to be kept indoors by short days and severe weather, Alaskans organize winter festivals to combat cabin fever.

Willow, 70 miles north of Anchorage, invites celebrants to race dog teams, run on snowshoes across a nearby lake, fill their faces with pie in a speed-eating contest, or just sit back and enjoy the hilarity at a winter carnival in January.

February's Fur Rendezvous brings visitors to Anchorage for Alaska's biggest winter festival. The world championship sled dog races climax 10 days of carnivals, car races on ice, dog weight-pulling contests, fur buying and trading, baseball games with players wearing snowshoes, arts and crafts exhibits, and costume and coronation balls.

Cordova's February fun centers around the Iceworm Festival. A glimpse of a 100-foot iceworm emerging from hibernation and marching through the streets on hundreds of booted feet lures visitors to this Prince William Sound fishing community.

In Interior Alaska, Fairbanks holds a Winter Carnival in March. Highlight of the festivities is the North American Sled Dog Championships, but plenty of other contests, from snow-sculpting and chili-eating to fur fashions, challenge the competitive spirit.

In Soldotna on the first weekend in February, there's the Clark Memorial sled dog race, 100 miles long, from Soldotna to Hope. More sled dog racing is held two weeks later when Soldotna hosts Alaska State Championship races. At the same time, there are sled dog weight-pull contests.

Scores of men and women turn out for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March to mush sled dog teams over 1,049 miles of former gold rush trails from Anchorage to Nome on the Seward Peninsula. Challenge, fellowship, and revelry at the race's finish in Nome brighten the late winter scene as Alaskans across the state follow the mushers' progress.

For those who prefer solitude, longer days and rising temperatures lead to thoughts of cross-country skiing. Hardy Alaskans get out their ski wax and head for the hills and valleys. Chugach State Park, which borders Anchorage on the east and south, encompasses nearly 150 miles of ski trails over essentially flat terrain. Another 100 miles of trails in the back country and across glaciers provide challenges for experienced expedition skiers.

Many communities organize snow machine races to test the skills and endurance of drivers and machines. At Kotzebue the Lions Club sponsors the



Willie Goodwin-Archie Ferguson Memorial Snowmachine Race, which follows a 250-mile course among the villages of the Kotzebue-Kobuk area in northwestern Alaska.

On Bristol Bay, approximately 1,300 residents of Dillingham enjoy Beaver Roundup, a traditional March gathering of trappers and fur buyers which has grown to include snow machine races, dog team races, a baking contest and other diversions.

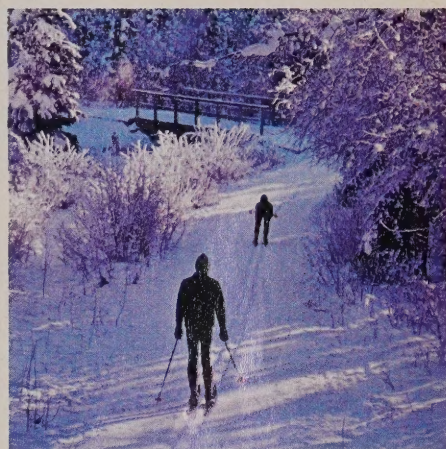
Savoonga's Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos on Saint Lawrence Island celebrate the importance of marine mammals to their lifestyle with the Walrus Carnival in May. Members of the church and Headstart Parents Advisory Council stage plays about walrus and Siberian Yup'ik customs. Performances of Eskimo singing, dancing, and drumming follow the plays, and evening entertainment ends with disco dancing.

Seal-hooking, harpooning, and shooting contests take place outdoors along with cross-country skiing and toboggan relay races. Visitors are welcome to help hold the walrus hide for the blanket toss if their fingers are strong enough.

Left — Sled dog racing is a major activity for many Alaskans. The longest race, the Iditarod, follows early gold rush trails 1,049 miles from Anchorage to Nome. (Staff, reprinted from The MILEPOST®)

Below — Anchorage's Fur Rendezvous, in February, has something for everyone. Colorful hot air balloons dot the skies. Events ranging from these balloon races and car races on ice to the more traditional sled dog races and fur buying bring thousands of visitors to the winter festivities. (Jackson Parry)

Right — Cross-country skiing at Russian Jack Springs, in Anchorage. Maintained by the Municipality of Anchorage, this ski area has about three miles of ski trails, some of which are lighted. (Tom Bean, reprinted from ALASKA® magazine)



Spring



Left — Ten-year-old Doug Scheele launches his boat in Big Lake north of Anchorage off the George Parks Highway. The photo was taken in early May when the ice was too rotten for walking and too solid for floating. (John and Margaret Ibbotson)
Below — Harry Brower's crew rests in his spring whaling camp on a May midnight in sub-zero temperatures, waiting for bowhead whales to arrive off Point Barrow. (Fran Durner)

Spring in Alaska brings with it a new state of mind as it works its changes first in the Southeast Panhandle, then north across the state. Rapidly lengthening days bring forth the first signs of new life. In low-lying areas, where snow has melted, new shoots seek the nourishing sun. Migrating birds make their way northward to join the few hardy species that overwinter. Later in spring, a flood of feathered creatures arrives from the south in a frenzied drive to reach their breeding grounds. Bears come out of hibernation. Young mammals take their first tentative steps toward independence.

Each spring Alaskans eagerly await the run of eulachon (hooligan), a smelt, sometimes called candlefish because of their high oil content: when dried they will burn with or without a wick.

Fishermen catch the slender, silvery-white fish with long-handled dip nets or with a fine-meshed gill net tied to the end of a long pole: one end of the pole is held by the fisherman while the end with the net is allowed to drift with the current as he walks along the bank.

Spring means breakup also. River ice cracks, twists, turns, and flows seaward with the rushing current, carrying meltwater from higher elevations. Nenana, at the confluence of the Tanana and Nenana rivers 300 miles north of Anchorage, holds an annual ice classic that offers about \$100,000 in cash prizes to lucky Alaskans who guess the exact day and minute of breakup. When surging ice dislodges a tripod in the Tanana River, the attached line stops a clock at the official breakup time. Earliest breakup, in 1940, was April 20; latest, in 1964, was May 20.





Left — A porcupine clings to the trunk of a budding birch sapling in Alaska's Interior. (Sue Entsminger)

Below — Troller Sudan stops at Sitka in Southeastern Alaska while seeking early returning king salmon. Sudan's master is Ketchikan fisherman Al Burno who rebuilt the boat from stern to stern. The Sudan sports a solid teak cabin, yellow cedar skin, new ribs and planks, new bulwarks, and a solid ironbark transom. (Matthew Donohue)



Summer



Left — Famous as a route for miners rushing to the Klondike, the trail over Chilkoot Pass serves as a corridor for hikers traveling from Skagway to the British Columbia and Yukon interiors. (Tom Bean, reprinted from ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC®)
Below — Old Glory flies near three skin boats during the first day of Nalukataq, or whaling festival, at Point Hope. The festival celebrates a successful whale hunt. (Lael Morgan, Staff, reprinted from ALASKA® magazine)

The long daylight of summer is a call to the outdoors for recreation that includes hiking, camping, boating, river rafting, and fishing. Many head for the bush — areas of the state not accessible by road. The intoxicating sweetness given the air by the new growth of spring gives way to the more solid, earthy fullness of summer, and snow recedes toward the mountaintops. Summer extends its grasp on Alaska from south to north, for a time leaving part of the great land in one season and part in another.

Along the north and northwest coast in June, Eskimos follow the leads or breaks in the ice to hunt the bowhead whale from open skin boats called *umiaks*. Point Hope, Wainwright, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Kivalina, Gambell, and Savoonga hunt whales, primarily during the cetaceans' spring migration, although some hunting is done in the fall. Captains who have taken a whale host a *Nalukataq*, or whaling festival, and distribute whale meat, an important part of the Inupiat Eskimo diet, to the villagers. *Muktuk* (skin and blubber) and whale flipper are considered delicacies. *Nalukataq* literally means "up in the air" and refers also to the Eskimo blanket toss, a traditional rite at the celebration of a successful whale hunt.

Farther south, Athabascan Indians from Interior Alaska gather at the confluence of the Yukon and Tanana rivers in late June for *Nuchalawoyya*, "where the rivers meet." Traditionally, village chiefs met annually where the village of Tanana now stands and in the 1960s Native leaders



revived the *Nuchalawoyya* tradition. Games and a potlatch mark the festival, which includes spear-throwing and muskrat skinning (contestants have skinned, quick-cleaned and stretched a pelt in about a minute), canoe races across the Yukon River, foot races, egg-throwing contests, greased stick pull, tug of war, and tea-making races. Tea-makers must boat across the river to get firewood, return, build a fire, make tea and run to the speaker. Men traditionally prepare and serve the food at the potlatch and dancing follows in the evening.

Summer means mining for those who follow the lure of gold and other precious metals. Fairbanks celebrates Golden Days in honor of Felix Pedro's original discovery of yellow dust at Pedro Dome in 1902. Since that year, placer fields north of Fairbanks have yielded more than eight million ounces of gold.

Valdez, on Prince William Sound, does its best to commemorate early prospectors during Gold Rush Days in August. The town attracts thousands of anglers to its Silver Salmon Derby at the same time.

Salmon symbolize Alaska's summer as

watermelons do in other parts of the country. Several communities sponsor sport fishing derbies: Juneau offers the Golden North Salmon Derby, and Ketchikan and Seward have salmon fishing events.

Other summertime attractions are the various Fourth of July celebrations throughout the state. At Sitka, in Southeastern Alaska, lumberjacks compete for top prizes in the All-Alaska Logging Championships. Seward's Independence Day festivities include a grueling run to the top of 3,022-foot Mount Marathon and back to the starting point downtown. Men and women have completed the challenging course in less than an hour. Natives from many villages in northern and western Alaska gather at Kotzebue for a trade fair, dancing, games . . . an all-around good time.

Another Native tradition is the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, which celebrates its 21st anniversary in 1981. Natives from Alaska and Canada converge on Fairbanks the last week in July or first week in August to compete in traditional contests of beauty, skill and endurance: muktuk-eating, dancing, one-foot high kick, blanket toss, seal-skinning, ear weightlifting (lead weights hang from a string hooked over the ear), knuckle-hop, muskrat-skinning, greased pole balancing.

Soldotna Progress Days, the last weekend in July, feature a rodeo, parade, arts and crafts show, air show and a contest for king and queen.

Cry of the Wild Ram, a historic pageant performed outdoors in a natural amphitheater,

draws visitors to Kodiak in August. The play traces the history of early years of Russian colonization in Alaska as Alexander Baranof attempted to expand Russian influence in North America.

Residents of Yakutat on the Gulf of Alaska coast, gather Labor Day weekend for a barbecue of wild game and fish. A greased pole climb, three-legged race, wheelbarrow race, water balloon toss, penny search in the sand, and other games keep the hungry occupied while the food cooks.



Above — Salmon fishing derbies mean fun, and prizes for the lucky. This angler caught his fish during Seward's annual Silver Salmon Derby which is held for nine days in August. (Sharon Paul, Staff, reprinted from *The MILEPOST*®)
Left — Fourth of July fireworks, launched from Mulcahy Park in the Chester Creek greenbelt, burst over downtown Anchorage. (John and Margaret Ibbotson)



Fall

As summer merges into fall, leaves become golden, amber, and rust. Berries — crowberries, salmonberries, blueberries, cranberries — cover much of the landscape. Animals gorge on summer's bounty to build up body fat, or fill their winter food caches to overflowing.

Farmers and gardeners harvest produce nourished under the long summer sun and show off the fruits of their labor at state fairs in Palmer, in the Matanuska Valley; Fairbanks; Haines, in Southeastern Alaska; at Kodiak; and the Kenai Peninsula.

Many Alaskans focus on hunting in the fall. Moose, caribou, deer, bear, Dall sheep, mountain goat . . . game meat is a staple for many bush Alaskans, and visitors come from around the world to hunt for trophies.

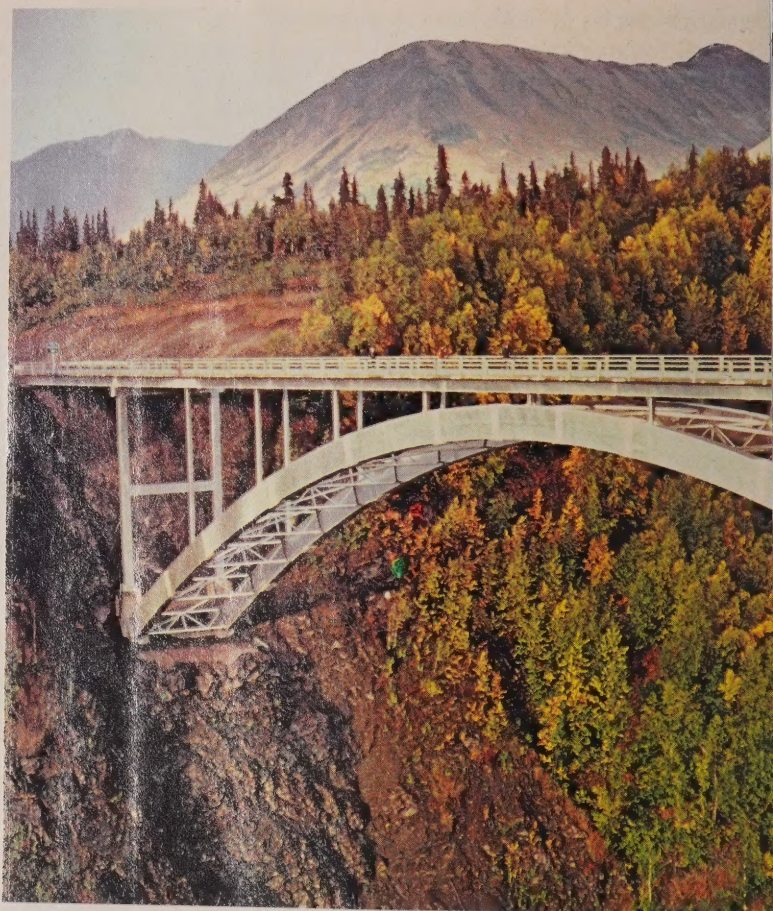
Trappers anticipating the opening of seasons on mink, marten, lynx, muskrat, fox, wolf, and other



fur bearers will have their winter meat hunted and cached, their firewood cut, and dog teams or snow machines ready to hit the winter trails.

Alaska celebrates its birthday on Alaska Day, October 18. At Sitka, capital of Russian America, an annual ceremony commemorates the purchase of Alaska from the Russians for \$7.2 million in 1867.

By late fall the snow has returned, and ice begins to cover open water. The skies are dark in the evening, with a cold, crisp clarity that makes a million stars seem close. Alaskans celebrate Thanksgiving with a look forward to the invigorating days of winter while vast, soft-colored curtains of northern lights, aurora borealis, play silently over this changing land.



Left — Dressed in colorful Eskimo parkas to protect against the chill of fall in Kotzebue, grandmother Laura Davis sits with Nicole and Gina Mallory as the youngsters clutch their puppies. One of the largest Eskimo communities in Alaska, Kotzebue serves as the trading center for more than 20 villages in Northwestern Alaska. (Sally Ede Bishop)

Above — A dramatic bridge spans Hurricane Gulch where it crosses the George Parks Highway some 174 miles north of Anchorage. Hurricane Creek is 260 feet below. Fall colors, beginning to touch the trees along the gulch, have already made their mark higher up, on the mountains beyond. (James A. Massey)

Right — Children enjoy fuzzy bears as well as parading soldiers during Alaska Day festivities at Sitka. At 3:30 P.M. October 18, 1867, the United States took possession of Alaska from Russia. Alaska Day commemorates this event. (Ernest Maneval)



Left — Close inspection of fall tundra in the Brooks Range reveals bearberry and a spruce cone.
(John and Margaret Ibbotson)
 Below — Come to the parade.
 Trains, clowns, and good times wait for visitors to the Southeast Alaska State Fair at Haines.
(Ernest Manewal)



Facts About Alaska

Travel to Alaska

A wide range of physical features and varying climates characterize Alaska. Depending on the region and time of year, travelers should be prepared for rain in Southeastern; severe temperature fluctuations in Interior; damp, foggy weather in the Aleutians; clear but crisp days in the Arctic. Wintertime visitors should dress warmly, with several layers preferable to one heavy layer.

Alaska can be reached by air, ship and highway. Several national and international carriers land in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Major communities are served from Lower 48 points by Alaska Airlines and Wien Air Alaska. Smaller airlines fly intrastate and charter service is available to anywhere in Alaska. The ferries of the Alaska Marine Highway system serve the major communities of Southeastern and run from Valdez to Whittier in Prince William Sound and from Seward, Homer and Kodiak across the Gulf of Alaska. Several cruise ships also call at Southeastern ports and longer tours are available to the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea islands.

For many the first contact with Alaska is the Alaska Highway and its terminus at Fairbanks. The 1,520-mile road is mostly gravel in Canada and pavement in Alaska. Scheduled bus service is available from the Lower 48 and Canada to Alaska and several companies offer motorcoach tours to the North Star state. For more information, order *The MILEPOST*®, a 500-page (8½" × 11") guide to western Canada, Alaska, and the northern roads system; available from Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509 — \$7.95 (\$9.50 in Canada) plus \$1.00 fourth-class; \$2.75 first-class postage/handling.

Camping

Numerous public and privately operated campgrounds are found along Alaska's highways. Electrical hookups and dumping stations are scarce.

Alaska's back country offers virtually limitless possibilities for wilderness camping. Get permission before camping on private land. If the land is publicly owned, it's worthwhile to contact the agency that manages the land regarding regulations and hiking/camping conditions. Additional details about camping are found in *The MILEPOST*®.

The U.S. Forest Service (P.O. Box 1628, Juneau 99802) maintains campgrounds in the Tongass (Southeastern Alaska) and Chugach (eastern Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound) national forests. Campsites usually accommodate tents, although some take trailers. All campgrounds are available first come, first served; some charge fees of \$2 or \$3 per night, but many are free. Campgrounds are open from mid-May through late fall.

Forest Service cabins are available for \$5 per night. Advance reservations, which may be made up to 180 days ahead of time, are mandatory, and you must have the necessary permit for the specific days you will be using the cabins. Unauthorized occupancy is a violation of both state and federal laws. The approximately 150 wilderness cabins are scattered throughout the Tongass and Chugach national forests. To reserve the cabins write to the U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Juneau 99802, or Chugach National Forest, Pouch 6606, Anchorage 99502; include full payment. It's also possible to stop by the Forest Service offices in Anchorage, Cordova, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, Wrangell, and Yakutat, and rent a cabin in person.

Each cabin has a table, bunks, and stove, but no plumbing, electricity, oil, cooking utensils, pillows, or mattresses.

The National Park Service (area office: 540 West Fifth Avenue, Anchorage 99501) at Mount McKinley National Park maintains seven campgrounds that are accessible by road. Situated near the park entrance and open year-round, Riley Creek, for vehicles, and Morino, for walk-in campers, are open on a first-come, first-served basis. Savage River, farther into the park, is also available on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces at the other campgrounds, open between May and September, depending on weather conditions, must be reserved upon arrival at the park. Camping permits may be obtained at Riley Creek Visitors Center. Reservations may





Left — A tent and backpack are essential for backpackers high in the Alaska Range. (Johnny Johnson)

Above — A hungry hiker stokes the stove at a Forest Service cabin at Upper Russian Lake on the Kenai Peninsula. (Lonnie J. Collins)

be made for up to 14 days. No fee is charged for primitive campgrounds. Teklanika River Campground costs \$2 per night; Riley Creek, Savage River, and Wonder Lake each cost \$4 per night. Brochures may be obtained from Mount McKinley National Park, P.O. Box 9, Mount McKinley 99755.

Glacier Bay National Monument and Katmai National Monument each offer one campground for walk-in campers. Back-country camping is permitted in McKinley, Glacier Bay, Katmai, and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and in the national monuments declared in 1978.

The Alaska Division of Parks (619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 210, Anchorage 99501) maintains the most extensive system of roadside campgrounds and waysides in Alaska. No fees are charged.

The Federal Bureau of Land Management (Fairbanks District Office, P.O. Box 1150, Fairbanks 99707) maintains 27 campgrounds in Interior Alaska. The campground at Delta Junction has a fee of \$2 per night; all other BLM campgrounds are free. Brochures describing the campgrounds are available from the above address or from the state BLM office, 701 C Street, P.O. Box 13, Anchorage 99513.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (area office: 1011 East Tudor, Anchorage 99503; Kenai National Moose Range, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna 99669) has campsites available. With the exception of a few bird refuges easily

disrupted by human presence, back-country camping is permitted in wildlife refuges with certain restrictions. Kenai National Moose Range, on the northwestern Kenai Peninsula, has 6 campgrounds, 21 access sites (with toilets), and 7 waysides (no sanitary facilities). A recreational use fee of \$2 per day is charged at Russian River access site; no fees are charged at other sites. Contact local refuge managers for up-to-date information.

Hostels

Alaska has hostels in Anchorage, Ketchikan, Juneau, Nome, and Sitka. Hostels are available to anyone with a valid membership card issued by associations affiliated with the International Youth Hostel Federation. Membership is open to all ages and some hostels also accept nonmembers.

By international agreement, each youth hostel member joins the association of his own country. A valid membership card, which costs \$14 for those between ages 18 and 60 and \$7 for those under 18 or over 60, entitles members to use hostels in affiliated countries. Hostel fees in Alaska range from \$2 to \$5 per night.

For further information, contact American Youth Hostels, Delaplane, Virginia 22025.

Information Sources

Agriculture: State Division of Agriculture, Box 1088, Palmer 99645; Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701.

Business: Department of Commerce & Economic Development, Division of Economic Enterprise, Pouch EE, Juneau 99811; State Chamber of Commerce, 310 Second Street, Juneau 99801.

Education: Department of Education, Pouch F, Juneau 99811; U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Box 3-8000, Juneau 99802.

Health: Department of Health and Social Services, Pouch H, Juneau 99811.

Housing: Alaska State Housing Authority, Box 80, Anchorage 99510.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations: Department of Fish & Game, Subport Building, Juneau 99801.

Job Opportunities: State Employment Service, Box 3-7000, Juneau 99811.

Labor: Department of Labor, Box 1149, Juneau 99811.

Land: Division of Forest, Land & Water Management, 941 East Dowling Road, Anchorage 99502; U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 701 C Street, P.O. Box 13, Anchorage 99513.

Mines and Petroleum: State Division of Geological Survey, 3001 Porcupine Drive, Anchorage 99501; Mines Information Office, Pouch M, Juneau 99811; Department of Environmental Conservation, Pouch O, Juneau 99811.

Travel and Visitor Information: Division of Tourism, Pouch E, Juneau 99811; Marine Highway Systems, Pouch R, Juneau 99811.

Newspapers and Periodicals

ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC®, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509. Quarterly. Rates: \$20; outside the United States, \$24.

Alaska Journal of Commerce and Pacific Rim Reporter, 715 L Street, Suite 5, Anchorage 99501. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$45; 2 years, \$85.

ALASKA® magazine, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509. Monthly. Yearly rates: \$18; outside the United States, \$19.

Anchorage Daily News, 200 Potter Drive, Pouch 6616, Anchorage 99502. Daily except Sunday. Monthly rates: Anchorage, \$3.25; Mail subscriptions, \$5.95.

The Anchorage Times, 820 Fourth Avenue, P.O. Box 40, Anchorage 99510. Daily. Rates: Anchorage, \$3.25 per month; Sunday, \$1.50 per month. Second-class mail rates in Alaska: daily, \$8.25 per month; Sunday, \$4.75 per month. Inquire for out-of-state rates.

The Bering Straights, P.O. Box 968, Nome 99762. Weekly. Yearly rates: \$20; first-class, \$35.

Cheechako News, P.O. Drawer O, Kenai 99611. Weekly. Yearly rate: regular mail, \$15.

Chugiak-Eagle River Star, P.O. Box 1007, Eagle River 99577. Weekly. Rates: 6 months, \$6.50; 1 year, \$12.75; first-class mail: 6 months, \$13.

Copper Valley Views, P.O. Box 233, Copper Center 99573. Bimonthly. Yearly rate: \$12.

Cordova Times, P.O. Box 200, Cordova 99574. Weekly. Yearly rates: second-class mail, \$26; first-class, \$39.

The Delta Paper, P.O. Box 988, Delta Junction 99737. Weekly. Rates: 75 cents, weekly; yearly, \$39.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Box 710, Fairbanks 99707. Daily except Sunday. Yearly rates: second-class mail, \$60.50 in Alaska; \$82.50 for Canada and the Lower 49.

Great Lander Shopping News, 3110 Spenard Road, Anchorage 99503. Weekly. Yearly rate: third-class, \$20.

Homer News, P.O. Box 254, Homer 99603. Yearly rates: \$18 for regular mail; \$32 for first-class.

Juneau Empire, 235 Second Street, Juneau 99801. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. Rates: Juneau, \$4.25 per month; second-class postage, \$6.10 per month.

Kodiak Times, P.O. Box 2368, Kodiak 99615. Twice weekly. Second-class rates: 3 months, \$10; 6 months, \$20; 1 year, \$39. First-class rates: 3 months, \$15; 6 months, \$28; 1 year, \$56.

Ketchikan Daily News, P.O. Box 7900, Ketchikan 99901. Daily except Sunday. In Ketchikan: 3 months, \$15; 6 months, \$28; 1 year, \$54. Second-class rates: 3 months, \$18.50; 6 months, \$31; 1 year, \$67.

Kodiak Daily Mirror, P.O. Box 1307, Kodiak 99615. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. Monthly, second-class rates: Alaska, \$5; Canada and the Lower 49, \$8.

Lynn Canal News, P.O. Box 637, Haines 99827. Second-class rates: \$20 Haines and Skagway; \$23 out of town; \$30 for first-class.

The MILEPOST®, P.O. Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509. Annual, 1981 edition available in March is 500 pages. \$7.95 (\$9.50 in Canada) plus \$1 for postage and handling (fourth-class); \$2.75 for first-class mail.

Mukluk News, P.O. Box 96, Tok 99780. Biweekly. First-class rates: 1 year, \$16.

Nome Nugget, P.O. Box 610, Nome 99762. Semiweekly. Second-class rates: \$2 per month; \$12 for 6 months; \$20 for one year.

The Palmer Frontiersman, P.O. Box D, Palmer 99645. Weekly. Yearly second-class rates in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, \$12.50; elsewhere, \$20.

Peninsula Clarion, P.O. Box 1341, Kenai 99611. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. Rate: \$48 per year.

Petersburg Pilot, P.O. Box 930, Petersburg 99833. Weekly. Rates: 6 months, \$11 for Petersburg residents, \$13 for out of town, \$18 for first-class; 1 year, \$19 in town, \$22 out of town, \$35 for first-class.

The Pioneer All-Alaska Weekly, P.O. Box 970, Fairbanks 99707. Weekly. Second-class rates: 3 months, \$5.50; 6 months, \$11; 1 year, \$20.

Seward Phoenix Log, P.O. Box 97, Seward 99664. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$15 in Kenai Peninsula Borough, \$16 outside borough; \$28 per year, first-class.

Sitka Daily Sentinel, P.O. Box 799, Sitka 99835. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. In Sitka, 1 month, \$5; 3 months, \$14; 6 months, \$25; 1 year, \$45. Mailed subscription rates: 3 months, \$17; 6 months, \$31; 1 year, \$57 in-state, \$69 out-of-state.

Southeastern Log, P.O. Box 7900, Ketchikan 99901. Monthly. Rates: free to Southeast Alaska residents; other Alaska residents: 1 year, \$6; outside Alaska, \$7.25.

Tundra Drums, P.O. Box 868, Bethel 99559. Weekly. Second-class rate: 1 year, \$10.

Tundra Times, 639 I Street, Anchorage 99501. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$20 for second-class; \$50 for first-class.

Valdez Vanguard, P.O. Box 200, Cordova 99574. Weekly. Rates: 1 month, \$2.50; 1 year, \$26; 1 year, first-class, \$39.

The Valley Sun, Pouch M, Wasilla 99687. Weekly. Rates: free to residents of Matanuska-Susitna Borough; all others: 1 year, \$20.

Wrangell Sentinel, Box 798, Wrangell 99929. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$20 for second-class; \$35 for first-class.



When summer comes to the coastal areas of Alaska, many residents abandon any thoughts of free time and other festivities. They go to work in the fishing industry. These cannery workers at Bumble Bee Seafoods in South Naknek are processing salmon eggs, or roe, for the Japanese market. They

work long days, carefully cutting the eggs from the salmon and taking them to a separate section of the plant — called the “egg house” — for special processing. Only the supervising Japanese technicians know the exact formula for processing the roe, which is a highly sought delicacy in Japan. (Karl Ohls)

Sample Costs

Costs of food, clothing, housing, gasoline are 15% to 40% higher than in the Lower 48 states. Unofficial sample prices in Anchorage in July 1980 were:

Apartment rentals per month: 1-bedroom, \$200 to \$375; 2-bedroom, \$220 to \$450; 3-bedroom, \$245 to \$800.
Price of 2-bedroom home: \$44,000 to \$86,000 and up; 3-bedroom: \$69,000 to \$145,000 and up; 4-bedroom: \$81,000 to \$165,000 and up.
Firewood: \$60 to \$80 per cord, depending on season.
Fuel oil for heating: \$1.03 per gallon.
Premium gas, per gallon: \$1.35 (full-serve); \$1.25 (self-serve).
Regular gas, \$1.29 (full-serve); \$1.19 (self-serve).
Diesel, per gallon: \$1.08.
Car insurance: low-risk, married adult over 30 driving medium-sized late-model car: \$300 to \$900 per year.
Auto tune-up, compact: \$85 to \$90; V-8: \$95 to \$100.
Milk: 82 cents per quart.
Eggs, medium: 83 cents per dozen.
Lettuce: 79 cents to 89 cents per pound.
Bread, 24-ounce loaf of white: \$1.11.
Ground beef, 1 pound regular: \$1.94.
Steak dinner (New York cut): \$6.29 to \$18.
Coffee per cup: 40 cents to \$1.
Ham and eggs: \$3.25 to \$6.25.
Hamburger: 75 cents to \$5.95.
Haircuts, man's: \$8 to \$20; **woman's:** shampoo, blow-dry: \$15 to \$30.
Beer, per case: \$13.50. **Beer, per glass**, in a bar: \$1.50 to \$2.75.
Bourbon, 750 ml: \$7.50. **Scotch/water**, per drink, in a bar: \$2 to \$3.

Speaking Alaskan

Aurora borealis: The northern lights are produced by gas particles in the upper atmosphere being struck by solar electrons trapped in the earth's magnetic field. Color varies depending on how hard the gas particles are being struck.

Barabara: Traditional Aleut or Eskimo shelter built of sod supported by driftwood or whalebone.

Cheechako: Tenderfoot or greenhorn.

Eskimo ice cream: Traditional food made of whipped berries, seal oil and snow. Sometimes shortening, raisins, and sugar are added.

Iceworm: Small, thin, segmented black worm, usually less than one inch long, that thrives at temperatures just above freezing.

Igloo: Dwelling of driftwood, whalebone and sod. The snow and ice houses commonly thought of as igloos are traditional with Canadian and not Alaskan Eskimos.

Kuspuk: Eskimo woman's parka, often made with a loosely cut back so that an infant can be carried piggyback. The outer shell is made of brightly colored cloth; traditionally, a fur lining faces inward.

Mukluks: Lightweight boots usually made with sealskin bottoms and caribou tops and trimmed in fur. Athabaskan Indian mukluks are traditionally made with moose hide and trimmed with fur and beadwork.

Muktuk: Outer skin layers of beluga and bowhead whale that may be eaten fresh, frozen, cooked or pickled.

Permafrost: Permanently frozen subsoil which underlies all of the Arctic and much of the Interior.

Potlatch: Traditional Native gathering, primarily Indian in origin, held to commemorate any memorable occasion.

Qiviut: Soft, underwool of musk ox which is knitted into fine quality garments.

Squaw candy: Salmon smoked for a long time until dry and chewy.

Ulu: Eskimo woman's fan-shaped knife designed for scraping and chopping.

Miscellaneous Facts About Alaska

Alaska, with 586,412 square miles, is one-fifth the size of the Lower 48. The state has 33,904 miles of shoreline, and estimated tidal shoreline, including islands, inlets and shoreline to head of tidewater is 47,300 miles. Alaska measures 2,400 miles east to west (Florida to Washington State) and 1,420 miles north to south.

Southeastern Alaska includes about 1,000 of the state's 1,800 named islands, rocks and reefs.

Additional copies of this "Introduction to Alaska, 1981" are available. For quantity-discount price information, please write: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509.

The sun rises May 10 in Barrow and does not set until August 2. When the sun disappears at noon, November 18, it will not appear again until noon, January 24.

Air taxis are based in more than 100 Alaska communities. For current information on air taxi operators, contact the Alaska Air Carriers Association, Inc., Box 6469, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

The Alaska Highway (formerly called the Alcan) stretches 1,520 miles through Canada and Alaska from Milepost Zero at Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. The bible of Alaska Highway travelers is *The MILEPOST*®, published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company.

Legal drinking age in Alaska is 19.

The Aleutian Islands reach 1,000 miles from Unimak, closest to the mainland, to Attu, the most distant. There are more than 200 islands in the chain; the southernmost are closer to Hawaii than any point in California, and starting from Unimak, all are west of Honolulu.

Alaska has 365,000 miles of rivers.

Icefields cover 28,800 square miles of the state, but that's only 4% of Alaska.

The tallest mountain is McKinley, 20,320 feet . . . also the tallest in North America. Mount McKinley is also called Denali.

Alaska's state bird is the willow ptarmigan. State flower is the forget-me-not; tree is the Sitka spruce; fish is the king salmon; gem is jade; mineral is gold; sport is dog mushing; song is *Alaska's Flag*; and the flag is the Big Dipper and North Star in gold on a blue background.

Alaska Natives: About 30,000 are Eskimos, 20,000 are Indians (Tlingits, Athabascans, Tsimshians and Haidas), and 6,500 are Aleuts.

Alaska's largest glacier, Malaspina, covers 2,937 square miles . . . the size of Rhode Island.

The Alaska-Canada border is 1,538 miles long. Length of the border between the Arctic Ocean and Mount Saint Elias is about 650 miles.

Alaska is adjacent to four bodies of salt water: the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea and Arctic Ocean.

There are four time zones in Alaska: Bering, Alaska, Yukon and Pacific.

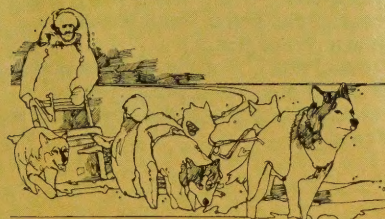
The longest river is the Yukon, which runs 1,933 miles from its headwaters in Yukon Territory to where it empties into the Bering Sea; 1,400 of those miles are in Alaska.

Erskine House in Kodiak is the oldest building, built by the Russians probably between 1793 and 1796.

The farthest north supermarket is in Barrow, cost \$4 million and was constructed on stilts to prevent snow build-up.

The trans-Alaska pipeline is 800 miles long, from Prudhoe Bay to the terminus at Valdez; slightly less than half the length is buried, the rest is on 78,000 aboveground supports.

The largest gold nugget was discovered near Nome, September 29, 1901, and weighed 107 ounces, 2 pennyweight, was 7 inches long, 4 inches wide and 2 inches thick.



To order publications about the North, please turn the page.

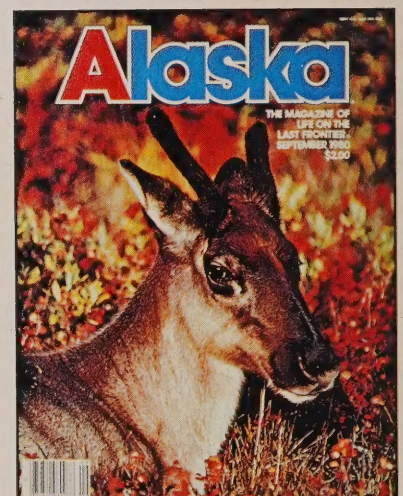
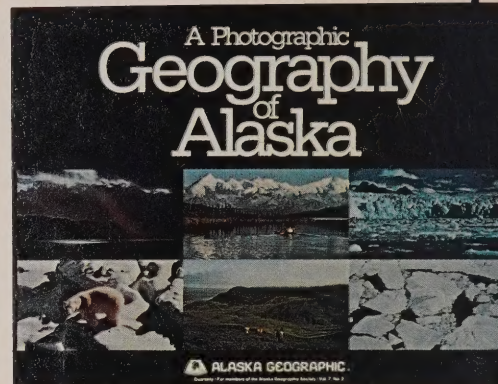
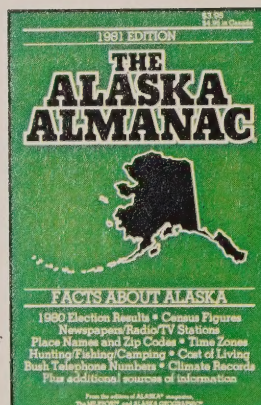
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